



2013 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries Outlook

This information sheet describes the anticipated management strategies for the 2013 season.

Run and Harvest Outlook

	Chinook	Summer Chum	Fall Chum	Coho
Projection:	Poor to below average Expect difficulties	Average to above average	Average to above average	Average to below average
Escapement:	meeting all goals	Expect to meet goals	Expect to meet goals	Expect to meet goals
Subsistence:	Expect harvest reductions will be necessary	Expect to provide for normal harvest	Expect to provide for normal harvest	Expect to provide for normal harvest
Commercial:	No fishery anticipated	300,000 to 500,000 potentially available for harvest	350,000 to 600,000 potentially available for harvest	10,000 to 70,000 potentially available for harvest

Management Strategies

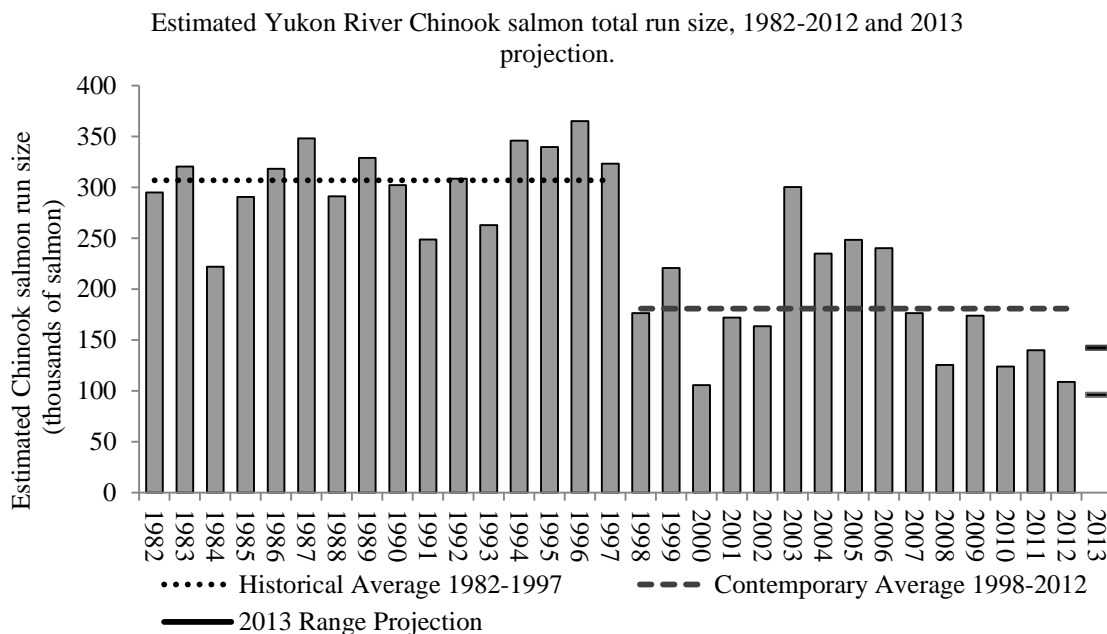
- The subsistence salmon fishing schedule will begin May 30 in District 1 and will be implemented chronologically with the upriver migration (see schedule table on the opposite side).
- When the schedule is initiated, gillnets will be restricted to 6-inch maximum mesh size in each district including the Coastal District and the Innoko and Koyukuk Rivers.
- Subsistence fishing on the first pulse of Chinook salmon will be closed. Based on the poor preseason projection, it is likely the closure will be extended to protect the second pulse (meaning an approximately 10 day closure). The closure will be initiated in District 1 and similarly implemented in upriver fishing districts and subdistricts based on migratory timing. After the closure, fishing time may be reduced to further conserve Chinook salmon.
- The Tanana River will be managed to meet Chinook salmon escapement goals for the Chena and Salcha rivers. To improve escapement into the Chena River, a subsistence fishing period will be closed (approximately 5 days) and implemented based on inseason assessment and run timing information. Gillnets will likely be restricted to 6-inch maximum mesh size at the midpoint of the run to conserve female Chinook salmon. Personal Use fishery will be restricted to 6-inch maximum mesh size on July 1.
- Fishermen are strongly encouraged to voluntarily reduce their Chinook salmon harvest to not exceed 25% of their average annual harvest to help ensure adequate escapement. For example, a family that normally harvests 40 Chinook salmon should consider taking only 10 this year. Fishermen should consider shifting harvest to other salmon species, where possible, to supplement a reduced Chinook salmon harvest.
- The sport fishery for Chinook salmon will be closed in the mainstem Yukon River. In the Yukon River tributaries (excluding the Tanana River drainage), retention of Chinook salmon will not be permitted in June.
- The Tanana River drainage sport fisheries will be closed to Chinook salmon retention (restricted to catch-and-release). Sport fishing opportunities may be further restricted or liberalized based on inseason run assessments from the Chena and Salcha rivers.
- New commercial gear options available in the Lower Yukon including dip nets, beach seines, and 5.5-inch mesh size gillnets (30 meshes deep) will be employed early in the summer chum salmon directed commercial season to reduce the incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. Later in the season, gillnets with 6-inch maximum mesh size will be utilized when the rate of incidental harvest is expected to be low.

For 2013, the US/Canada Yukon River Panel agreed to continue Interim Management Escapement Goals (IMEG) of 42,500-55,000 Chinook salmon and 70,000-104,000 fall chum salmon based upon the Eagle sonar program. In addition, approximately 5,000 Chinook and a minimum of 10,000 fall chum salmon will need to cross the border to fulfill harvest sharing commitments specified in the US/Canada Yukon River Agreement. The Fishing Branch River IMEG of 22,000-49,000 fall chum salmon is based upon the historical weir data.



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The 2013 Chinook salmon projection is for a run size range of 96,000 to 142,000. The lower end of this range is slightly below the run size observed in 2012. The following chart shows the historical estimated Yukon River Chinook salmon total run size, illustrating the drastic decline in production beginning in 1998.



The cause of this drop in production remains largely unknown. Though parent year escapement objectives were generally achieved throughout the drainage, Chinook salmon returns since 2007 have been much lower than expected. As in recent years, initial management will be based on the preseason projections and will shift to inseason assessment as the runs develop. The schedule below is subject to change as subsistence fishing periods can be expected to be closed or reduced in duration to protect Chinook salmon pulses.

Area	Regulatory Subsistence Fishing Periods	Date Schedule To Begin	Open Fishing Times
Coastal District	7 days/wk	All Season	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU - 24 hours/day
District 1	Two 36-hour periods/wk	May 30	Mon. 8 pm to Wed. 8 am / Thu. 8 pm to Sat. 8 am
District 2	Two 36-hour periods/wk	June 2	Wed. 8 pm to Fri. 8 am / Sun. 8 pm to Tue. 8 am
District 3	Two 36-hour periods/wk	June 5	Wed. 8 pm to Fri. 8 am / Sun. 8 pm to Tue. 8 am
Subdistrict 4A	Two 48-hour periods/wk	June 9	Sun. 6 pm to Tue. 6 pm / Wed. 6 pm to Fri. 6 pm
Subdistricts 4B, C	Two 48-hour periods/wk	June 16	Sun. 6 pm to Tue. 6 pm / Wed. 6 pm to Fri. 6 pm
Koyukuk and Innoko Rivers	7 days/wk	All Season	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU - 24 hours/day
Subdistricts 5A, B, C	Two 48-hour periods/wk	June 21	Tue. 6 pm to Thu. 6 pm / Fri. 6 pm to Sun. 6 pm
Subdistrict 5D	7 days/wk	All Season	M/T/W/TH/F/SA/SU - 24 hours/day
Subdistrict 6	Two 42-hour periods/wk	All Season	Mon. 6 pm to Wed. Noon / Fri. 6 pm to Sun. Noon
Old Minto Area	5 days/wk	All Season	Friday 6 pm to Wednesday 6 pm

For additional information:

Subsistence fishing schedule: 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call 907-459-7387.

ADF&G Eric Newland, Anchorage 907-267-2217; Jeff Estensen, Fairbanks 907-459-7217; or contact the Emmonak office 907-949-1320.

USFWS: Fred Bue, Fairbanks 907-455-1849 or 1-800-267-3997; or contact the Emmonak office 907-949-1798.